

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending. Applicants thank Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 through 20. Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,534,761 to Fukatsu, et al. ("Fukatsu"). Claim 1 has been amended herein. Claims 17, 18, and 19 have also been amended, as has the specification, to correct minor typographical errors. No new subject matter has been introduced.

Claim 1, as amended herein, now recites a flexible element that is fixed in the hollow shell opposite the scanning platform and "substantially aligned with the at least one opening" in the hollow shell. Fukatsu fails to teach or suggest this element. Examiner has previously identified the drive belt 19 of Fukatsu as being a flexible element. Without expressing an opinion on such a characterization, Applicants respectfully respond that the drive belt 19 of Fukatsu is not "substantially aligned with the at least one opening" in the shell of Fukatsu, as is required by amended claim 1. In fact, the drive belt 19 of Fukatsu appears to bear no relationship to the opening 24 of Fukatsu. For at least this reason, claim 1 as amended should be allowed over the prior art of record.

Applicants believe this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated 25 May 2004 and that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the present application be passed to issuance. Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining questions or concerns regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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